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FROM: A Philadelphia Paper, storyfiled in Berlin

DATE: Jan 7, 1947

RE : Spandau

A regimen of virtually solitary confinement is being prepared at Berlin's Spandau prison for Rudolf Hess and the six other major Nazi war criminals sentenced to imprisonment by the International War Crimes Tribunal at Nuremberg.

In big, bleak, chill Spandau they will be alone with their guards, selected from the four occupying Powers. Things be so arranged that, except for occasional outdoor exercise in the jail courtyard when weather permits, there will be no necessity for them to leave their single cell block.

A prison official, describing these arrangements, said: "To go to chapel services, to go to the hospital or to take a bath - all that's needed is a short walk within the cell block.

Suicide-Proof Cell

The cell block is being made, as far as possible, suicide proof. In the sparsely-furnished cells there is no glass. Precautions have been taken in toilet construction. Even the chairs, at the suggestion of a German workman, have been altered.

Spandau has a big top-floor chapel. But this isn't going to be used for the seven. A double cell will serve that purpose.

"It simplifies things," said an official, "that all the seven are Lutherans. No need for more than one chaplain. We have an application from a Norwegian Lutheran pastor living in Berlin who wants the job to 'do missionary work.' Perhaps we'll accept him."

No German Employes

No Germans will be employed behind the walls of Spandau when the Nazi prisoners are transferred there. To reduce the need for Allied guard personnel, an outer security system is being devised which will employ the use of towers - thus to reduce the need for patrols.

Maj. Walter Giese, Cleveland, O., American director of the prison, already is receiving an increasing volume of fan mail.

"A lot of it is crank stuff," said Giese, "but I figure I might as well get used to that on this job."

Giese, a hug man of 53, formerly was in charge of German prisoner war camps in the United States. His parents were

born in Pomerania, Germany, and he speaks and reads German.

Namesakes Write

"That accounts for a lot of my mail," he said. "Why, I've got German Gieses on my neck already. Namesakes here writing to learn if they are related to me."

Another letter writer, Giese said, virtually threatened to commit suicide if Giese didn't supply him with food packages from America.

Still others write complaining that the Nazi criminals may have "too good" accomodations in Spandau and suggesting that imprisonment for them is a waste of personnel and money.

Some former prisoners of war who were in camps Giese commanded and since have been released to return to Germany also have written him, seeking to ascertain his identity and report on their present status.

"When Hess and Doenitz and the other boys get here, maybe in a year they will be forgotten men," Giese said. "But I rather think it will be the other way around and I anticipate the mailman will continue to bring us a pack. So I guess I'll save all my letters. They'll make a very interesting collection in a few years."

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